

Executive Summary
Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC)
Tuesday, September 17, 2013
Helena, Montana

Attendees:

Members or Designees: Chair Jennie Stapp – Montana State Library (MSL); Dawn Anderson – State Agency Representative; Mike Bousliman – State Agency Representative; Janelle Luppen for Annette Cabrera – Local Government Representative; Rudy Cicon – Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors Representative; Warren Fahner – Local Government Representative; Fred Gifford – Private Sector Representative; Allen Armstrong for Wendy Largent – GIS Professional Organization Representative; Ted Chase for Cynthia Monteau Moore – State Agency Representative ; Linda Vance – GIS Professional Organization Representative; and Christiana von Reichert – University System Representative.

Guests: Tony Bachman – Forest Service; Meghan Burns – Military Affairs; Nat Canter – DEQ; Matt Heller – US FWS; Kyle Hilmer- SITSD; Will Petty – Forest Service; Mike Powell – Yellowstone County; Jim Robinson – DNRC; Michael Sweet – Montana Climate Office; and Leslie Zolman – MAGIP/Commerce;

Staff: Troy Blandford, Stu Kirkpatrick and Marlys Stark.

Jennie Stapp called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Approval of June Executive Summary – Council

Motion was made by Member Bousliman and seconded by Member Vance to approve the June executive summary as presented and the motion passed.

2015 Legislative Session – Policy and Procurement Update – Jennie Stapp

State Librarian Stapp gave a brief overview of the Executive Planning Process (EPP) which is the method state agencies use to prepare for the next legislative session. The EPP process will begin for the 2015 session within the next couple of months by asking staff for recommendations for proposals and budget requests. A meeting will be held with the Governor's Budget Office in April regarding legislation and in May regarding budget requests. For the upcoming session, a definite MSL goal will be to move the water manager position to a permanent status instead of the current one time only so the benefit of the position will need to be well documented.

Suggested Changes to the MSDI Application Process – Jennie Stapp

The suggested changes presented to the Council for consideration included:

- steps that amended the process and to better fit the change in authority to the State Library
- Data needs to be in the public domain
- Instead of the proposing organization performing the evaluation of qualifications, a work group should be assigned to do an independent analysis
- The evaluation process should include discussion of data maintenance
- The MAGIP best practices should also be considered.

Council discussion followed. There was a consensus that this agenda item should be moved to the next meeting in order to allow time to review the MAGIP best practices document prior to any decisions. Motion was made by Member Gifford to table this agenda item until the next meeting and the motion passed.

Potential MLIA Rules Change – Jennie Stapp

Council reviewed the proposed rules change. It was noted that theme champions was misspelled in the draft copy but should actually be changed to theme stewards instead of theme champions.

Motion was made by Member Bousliman and seconded by Member Fahner to approve the rule notice as modified and the motion passed.

Preliminary Strategic Plan Discussion – Jennie Stapp

The 2006 – 2010 GIS Strategic Plan, originally developed with FGDC grant funding, has never been updated and there have been significant changes in the technology since the original plan was developed. Council members looked at the plan which included case studies, issues, goals and objectives.

Council felt the process and communication involved in developing a strategic plan is very worthwhile. A strategic plan can help guide, decide who is accountable for issues, provide more strength via identified priorities and more. Council felt it would be a good idea to hire an outside consultant to help facilitate the update process. Appropriate stakeholders to be involve in the process need to be identified. Suggestions from council members included the following:

- updating any outdated sections if funding can't be found for a full review
- conducting a survey of the community
- identifying why certain goals were achieved while some were not
- decide the relevance of current goals
- assigning people to review the work plans at each meeting to see if they are on task.

This will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Each member is requested to be ready for a discussion on the topic in December and be able to share their views on the relevancy of the goals as well as identify the authorizers, stakeholders, new goals and tasks.

Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Data Stewardship for Montana – Stu Kirkpatrick

A digital PLSS is an important building block for a lot of GIS data including MSDI Cadastral and Administrative Boundaries. The current database, originally known as the BLM's Geographic Coordinate Database (GCDB) and now CadNSDI is not meeting state and local needs. Specifically CadNSDI Version 2 has had a lot of identified errors and the turnaround between CadNSDI versions is slow. Local Government PLSS enhancement programs are not achieving parcel accuracy enhancement because of the slow turn around.

A discussion of possible solutions included the following points:

- Continued federal stewardship should not be expected and should move to state stewardship
- Update processes should use a GIS based maintenance workflow
- Partnerships between BLM, Forest Service, counties should be continued and used to establish stewardship boundaries and freely flowing coordinate information
- There are surveyors on the ground daily so a better way to gather that data needs to be developed and better partnerships built with surveyors themselves
- Perhaps an incentive for surveyors to submit their data can be used
- Speed is important
- Off the record BLM indicates that they would prefer the states would run the program but they should be involved
- It is important that dueling PLSSs' are not developed but rather a true partnership of all involved.

With the assistance of the FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee's Nancy Von Meyer Montana has been identified by the Esri State and Local Solutions Team as a test-bed to develop new PLSS stewardship workflows In December Stu will report on the information from ESRI regarding what they can provide for a system.

GIS Enterprise Governance and Architecture – Kyle Hilmer

SITSD did a survey concerning the State's GIS Enterprise architecture and the policies that surround it. They found that currently (although subsequently this has been rectified) there is limited GIS technical expertise at SITSD and MSL is the primary user of the service. There does not appear to be a common goals and not a lot of incentive for agencies to think about how to better coordinate, particularly regarding architecture needs. SITSD is starting to do another round of the budgeting process which hopefully will better reflect the actual user needs. **There is not report but talking notes will be sent out via Jennie.**

Meeting was recessed at 12:30 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 1:14 p.m.

NRIS Water Information System and MSDI Hydrography – Troy Blandford

Troy gave a presentation including a brief background of the program, what he has been working on since being hired and plans for the future.

MLIA/MSDI General Administrative Budget Status – Jennie Stapp

Jennie presented the FY 13 budget close-out numbers. All accounts were under budget primarily due to differences in projected costs versus actual costs such as library expenses and SITSD fixed costs as well as vacancy savings. The three percent raises will be reflected in FY14 budgets.

MLIA Land Plan and Grant Status Report – Stu Kirkpatrick

Contracts for all FY14 land grants are in place. Discussion on potential budget caps for future grants should wait until the FY 15 Land Plan is developed. Volunteers were requested for the Land Plan Subcommittee. Members Fahner, Bousliman, Vance and Chase volunteered.

MAGIP Report – Allen Armstrong

At the September board retreat, work was done on a document to move forward with the three top priorities with each board member having a list of tasks to perform. Educational trunks are available for checkout. The fall technical session will be held in December in conjunction with the State IT Conference. The Intermountain GIS Conference is in April. The best practices document for spatial data distribution has been completed. Other best practices documents include metadata and projection. Council members should be aware of the Geographic Alliance which promotes technology based education for teachers and students.

Council Updates

Regarding NAIP 2013, the state has been flown and should be available in November or early December. It should then be put on an image server which will require less processing.

The MT.gov map gallery is not up yet but will be along the same lines as the MSL map gallery.

Open Forum and Public Comment

Chuck Fahner requested both the average and the highest MLIA grant figures for each year available.

Mike Sweet said that he had an IT colleague with a GIS background that worked a fire in another state and commented how difficult (compared to Montana) it was to gather up the data needed to know how to work a fire that was threatening a community. Allen Armstrong has heard similar comments when hosting the spring meeting in Miles City from South Dakota people. Basically they have no organization and coordination.

Christiana said the University of Montana Geography Department has filled their vacant position by hiring Dea Dowell from North Carolina and hope to have her as the representative on the council.

December Meeting Date, Location and Agenda Items – Jennie Stapp

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 10 which will be the day before the commission meeting. Agenda items will include the legislative discussion, MSDI decision tree, MAGIP best practices, and strategic plan among others.

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.